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Viewing cable 10KABUL388, Rail Projects Underway, But a Uniform Network Remains

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags #cablegate and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. #10KABUL388.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
10KABUL388	2010-02-01 15:09	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET	Embassy Kabul

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.aftenposten.no/spesial/wikileaksdokumenter/article4005032.ece>

VZCZCXRO3120
RR RUEHDBU RUEHPW RUEHSL
DE RUEHBUL #0388/01 0321509
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
R 011509Z FEB 10
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5283
RUKEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 0040
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 8357
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5001
RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 KABUL 000388

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/26/2035

TAGS: [ELTN](#) [EINV](#) [ECON](#) [PGOV](#) [AF](#) [IR](#)

SUBJECT: Rail Projects Underway, But a Uniform Network Remains

Elusive

Classified By: Ambassador E. Anthony Wayne for reasons 1.4 b and d.

11. (U) Summary: While two rail construction projects in Afghanistan are underway and several more are under discussion, the dream of a nationw
Herat and Mazar: The Trains Have Left the Station

- - - - -

12. (S) The rail link from Herat to Torbat-E Heydarieh, Iran, funded by the Iranian Government, is more than half complete. The section the Ira
13. (SBU) Afghan Government officials toured the Iranian-funded portion of the project January 16 and were reportedly told by Iranian engineers
14. (S) Extending from the Afghan/Uzbek border at Hairaton to Mazar-i-Sharif, an Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded, Uzbek Railways-constructe
15. (U) The railroad will be 1520 millimeter gauge, the standard across the former Soviet Union. It will connect with existing Uzbek tracks at
Pakistani and Chinese Projects Off the Rails

- - - - -

16. (C) When China Metalurgical Corporation (MCC) won the tender for Aynak copper mine in 2008, its bid included a promise to build a rail line
17. (U) Pakistani media reported January 17 that work on a Quetta-Kandahar rail line would begin soon. The track is complete from Quetta to the
Hodgepodge Gauges: Problematic but Not the End of the Line

- - - - -

18. (U) With three different rail gauges potentially entering the country, freight will need to be offloaded at break of gauge or facilities mu
19. (U) Rail traffic volumes are also an issue. The general rule of thumb is that a rail line is not economically viable with less than 5 milli
10. (U) Comment: Many countries, including Australia, Tanzania and Angola, operate railroads of different gauges. These gauge differences becc
End comment.

11. Embassy Tashkent has cleared this cable.

EIKENBERRY